Regional

Biological Assessment

Sand Placement

Coast of Florida

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville District

REGIONAL BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

I. Purpose: To streamline compliance with Endangered Species Act (ESA)

II. Activities Covered (Regulatory and Corps Civil Works): Beach Nourishment, Navigation Dredging, and other placement of sand on the beach

III. Authorities Covered: Shore Protection, Navigation, Regulatory, other

IV. Species Considered: Nesting Sea Turtles (5 species), Piping Plover (and Critical Habitat), Snowy Plover, Red Knot, Beach Mouse (several species), Manatee, other

V. Geographic Scope: (Coast of Florida where sand is placed on beach)

VI. Information Requirements: past, present, and “reasonably foreseeable” future sand placement; occurrence of ESA resources; impacts to ESA resources; and Acceptable Means to Minimize Impact (Reasonable and Prudent Measures)

VII. Status: Met with Fish and Wildlife Service and FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; Preparing Biological Assessment to submit

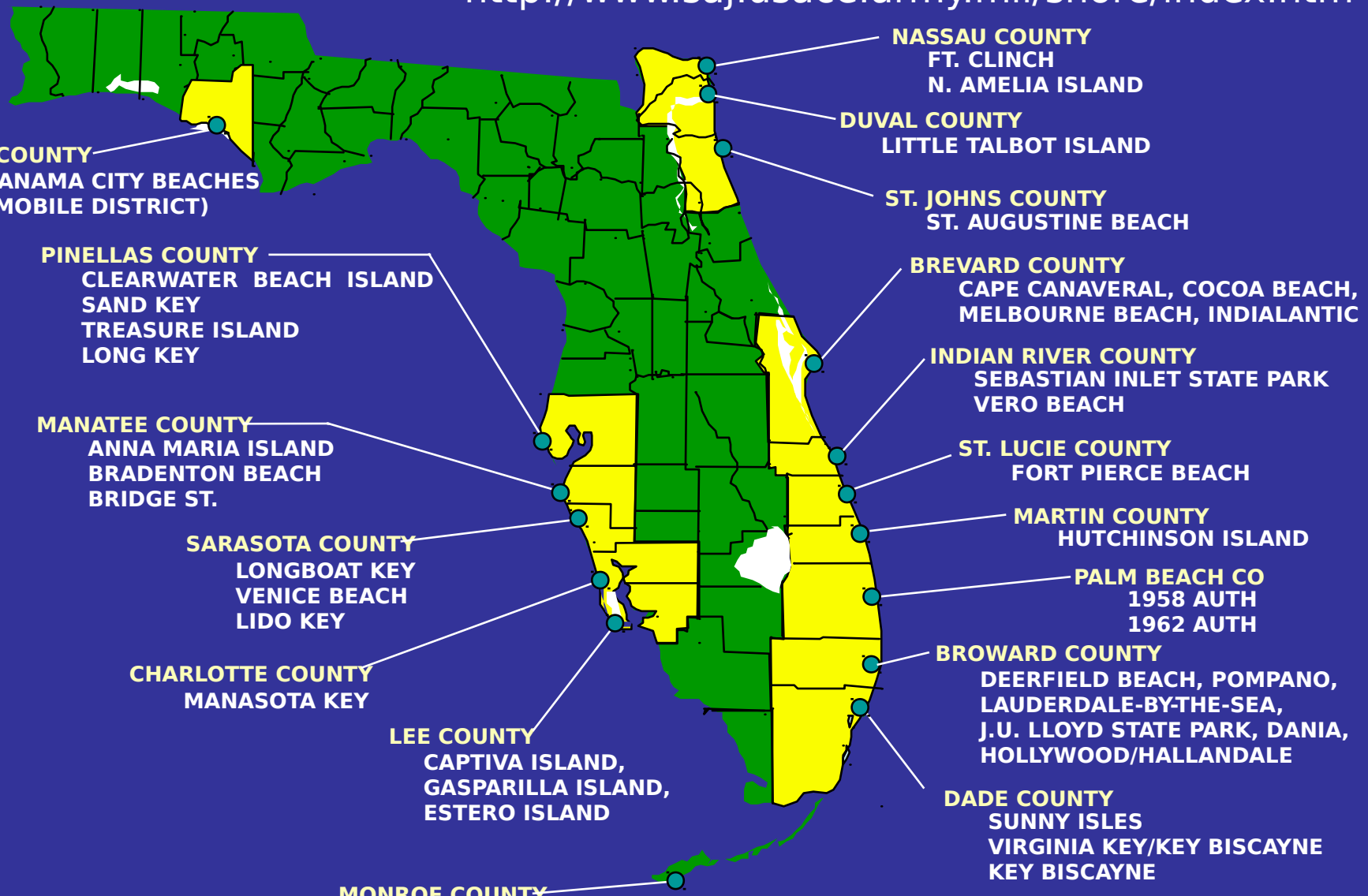
Collaboration

- SAJ:
  - Planning Division
    - Environmental Branch (Coastal Section) *
    - Plan Formulation Branch (Coastal/Navigation Section)
  - Regulatory Division
  - Construction and Operations Division (Field Offices)
- SAM (Civil Works Jurisdiction in Panhandle Florida)
- SAW (Brokered Work: Regional Biological Assessment)
- US Fish and Wildlife Service (Field Offices: Vero Beach, Jacksonville, and Panama City)**
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- American Bird Conservancy (Data, GIS)

* Lead Organization

** FWS would issue a Biological Opinion with Incidental Take Statement

http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/shore/index.htm



NASSAU COUNTY
FT. CLINCH
N. AMELIA ISLAND

DUVAL COUNTY
LITTLE TALBOT ISLAND

ST. JOHNS COUNTY
ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH

BREVARD COUNTY
CAPE CANAVERAL, COCOA BEACH,
MELBOURNE BEACH, INDIALANTIC

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
SEBASTIAN INLET STATE PARK
VERO BEACH

ST. LUCIE COUNTY
FORT PIERCE BEACH

MARTIN COUNTY
HUTCHINSON ISLAND

PALM BEACH CO
1958 AUTH
1962 AUTH

BROWARD COUNTY
DEERFIELD BEACH, POMPANO,
LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA,
J.U. LLOYD STATE PARK, DANIA,
HOLLYWOOD/HALLANDALE

DADE COUNTY
SUNNY ISLES
VIRGINIA KEY/KEY BISCAYNE
KEY BISCAYNE

BAY COUNTY
PANAMA CITY BEACHES
(MOBILE DISTRICT)

PINELLAS COUNTY
CLEARWATER BEACH ISLAND
SAND KEY
TREASURE ISLAND
LONG KEY

MANATEE COUNTY
ANNA MARIA ISLAND
BRADENTON BEACH
BRIDGE ST.

SARASOTA COUNTY
LONGBOAT KEY
VENICE BEACH
LIDO KEY

CHARLOTTE COUNTY
MANASOTA KEY

LEE COUNTY
CAPTIVA ISLAND,
GASPARILLA ISLAND,
ESTERO ISLAND

MONROE COUNTY
KEY WEST
SMATHERS BEACH

AUTHORIZED SHORE PROTECTION PROJECTS

DEEP DRAFT NAVIGATION

(http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/nav/index.html)

Atlantic

- Fernandina/Kings Bay
- Jacksonville
- Canaveral
- Fort Pierce
- Palm Beach
- Port Everglades
- Miami

Gulf of Mexico

- Key West
- Charlotte
- Manatee
- Tampa

SHALLOW DRAFT NAVIGATON

(http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/nav/index.html)

Atlantic

- Atlantic IWW
- IWW (Jax-Miami)
- St. Augustine
- Ponce de Leon
- St. Lucie Inlet
- other

Gulf of Mexico

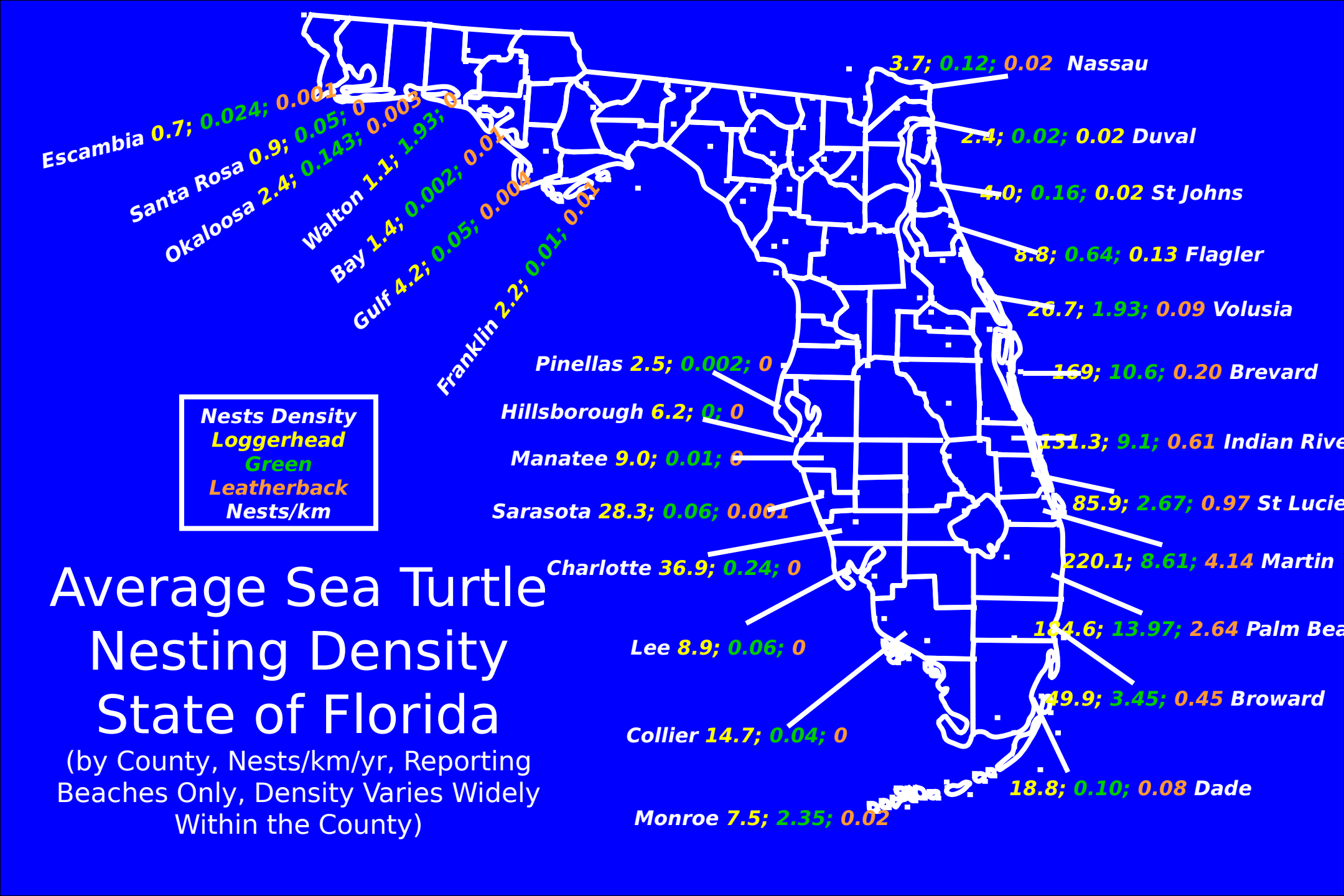
- Naples to Marco
- IWW CR to AR
- New Pass (Sarasota)
- Johns Pass (Pinellas)
- Withlacoochee
- Suwannee
- Steinhatchee
- other

REGULATORY PERMITS

- Data
  - Location
  - Quantity
  - Length
  - Biological Opinion (date, Terms & Conditions)
  - Nests Relocated and Other Impacts?
- Time Frame
  - Since 2000?

Schedule

- Scoping, Biological Assessment
  - Teleconference, 24 January 2006
  - Meeting, 7-8 March 2006 (FWS, FWC, SAM, SAJ, SAW)
- Prepare, Biological Assessment (March ’06 – November ’07)
  - Draft BA (March – September 2006)
    - Gather and Compile Data (FWS, FWC, SAM, SAJ(RD+PD), SAW)
    - In-Progress Review Meeting (All) 13 July ‘06
    - Evaluate Impacts
    - Determine Measures
  - Coordination and Review (All) (September ‘06 – September ‘07)
  - Interagency Workshop on “Terms and Conditions” 18-19 Sept ‘07
  - Final BA (SAJ) (November ‘07)
- SAJ/SAM Submit BA to FWS (December ‘07)
- FWS Prepare BO (December ‘07 – March ‘08)
- Submit BO to Corps (April 2008)



Average Sea Turtle Nesting Density State of Florida

(by County, Nests/km/yr, Reporting Beaches Only, Density Varies Widely Within the County)

Shore Protection Project Impacts on Shoreline Erosion

Shoreline Hardened

Eminent Threat to Structures

Critically Eroded *

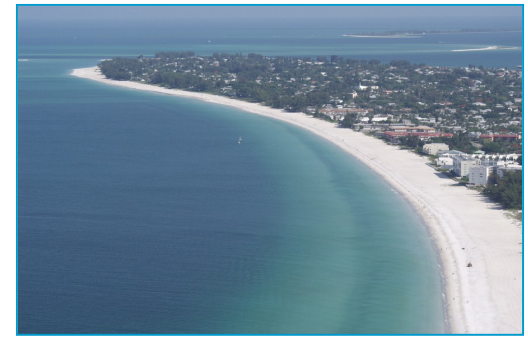
Moderate Erosion

Relatively Stable

Future Without Project

Current Condition

Future With Project



* Note: Shore protection activities typically occur on critically eroded shoreline in which “upland development, recreational interests, wildlife habitat, or important cultural resources are threatened”.

RBA / RBO Workshop

- Purpose: Discuss “Terms and Conditions”
- Day 1: 18 Sept. ’07
  - Beach Mice. Morning
  - Sea turtles, Morning
  - Manatees, Afternoon (protection measures, no incidental take)
- Day 2: 19 Sept. ’07
  - Piping Plovers
  - Red Knots
  - Snowy Plovers
- Participants:
  - FWS
  - FL FWC and DEP
  - SAM
  - SAJ (regulatory, environmental branch, field offices)
  - SAW
  - American Bird Conservancy

“Reasonable and Prudent”

- Is it a new or different Term & Condition?
- How does it benefit the species?
- Is it technically and engineeringly practicable?
- Is it within the authority and control of the Corps?
- Does it address the impacts of the project?
- Does it addresses the actions of the Corps (not the action or inaction of others)?

Beach Mice

- Distribution
  - Habitat (Anastasia and Southeastern)
  - Critical Habitat (Panhandle Species)
    - Perdido Key
    - Choctawhatchee
    - St. Andrew
- 8 Terms and Conditions
- 5 Conservation Recommendations

Sea Turtles, Nesting Species

- SE Florida, Brevard through Broward vs Other
- Nesting Seasons by Location/Region
- Sand Placement
  - Beach Lighting
  - Beach Slope / Profile
  - Monitoring, Relocation, and Reporting
- Dune Planting
- Sand Fencing
- Groin or Jetty Work
- 26 Terms and Conditions
- 5 Conservation Recommendations

MANATEE

- Standard Manatee Construction Conditions.
- Additional Conditions
  - Dredging Adjacent to Shore, Inlets, In Shore Areas (3 Conditions)
  - Dredging Activities in Important Manatee Areas
    - Warm Water Refugia (5 Conditions)
    - Other Important Manatee Areas (Location? Conditions?)